

Patent
USA.342-1In the Specification:

Please amend the Specification by amending page 12, line 29 to page 13, line 2 as follows:

The powder blend used in process 10 according to this embodiment of the invention is a metal powder blended with or coated by a polymeric binder system and also includes a high melting temperature fine particulate metallic, intermetallic or ceramic. The metal is a steel alloy and can be a stainless, carbon or a low alloy or mild steel. Carbon steels are steels containing less than about 2% by weight total alloying elements and low alloy or mild steels are steels containing an alloy content from about 2.07% to about 10% by weight total alloy content. Stainless steels contain at least 11% by weight chromium. The metal preferably is a mild steel alloy and can comprise about 88.75 to about 92.75 weight percent of the powder blend. Alternate suitable metals can include, for example, 17-4 PH (precipitated hardened) steel or 316 stainless steel. The polymeric binder system may use thermoplastics, thermosets, or a combination thereof. The binder system preferably is a thermoplastic, such as a copolymer of nylon. Optionally a flow agent may be used in the blend. Where one is used, fumed silica can be employed such as Cabosil 720 available from Cabot Corporation.